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Weapons Shipment for Former CIA Agent Wilson

Ex-Green Beret Pleads Guilty in Gun Case

By RONALD J. OSTROW, *Times Staff Writer*

WASHINGTON—An ex-Green Beret who worked for former CIA agent Edwin P. Wilson pleaded guilty Monday to illegally transporting four handguns, one of which the government said was used to assassinate a foe of Libyan strongman Moammar Kadafi.

But in admitting guilt in federal court in Alexandria, Va., Wallace L. Klink denied government charges that he knew how the guns were to be used and that he once claimed they were for a Central Intelligence Agency operation overseas.

Wilson faces trial on charges of illegally training Libyan terrorists, conspiring to commit murder and exporting more than 40,000 pounds of C-4 plastic explosive from Texas to Libya. Wilson had been a fugitive for two years until he was lured back to the United States through an elaborate undercover ruse.

Libyan Training Reported

According to a listing of facts that the government said it could prove beyond a reasonable doubt, Klink repaired farm machinery for Wilson on Wilson's Upperville, Va., farm from September, 1978, through December, 1979. Before that, Wilson employed Klink, a retired sergeant major in the U.S. Army Special Forces, to train Libyan troops in Libya, according to the government.

In March, 1979, the government statement said, Wilson called Klink from overseas and instructed him to obtain four used handguns in .38 and .357 calibers, for which Klink paid \$1,500 provided by Wilson.

Klink, with help of an unnamed associate, bought four revolvers in Fayetteville, N.C., telling the associate that the guns were needed for a CIA operation outside the United States, the government said.

Instruction on Guns

Upon returning to Upperville, the government said, Klink was instructed by Wilson to turn the guns over to another Wilson associate. The associate also was not named in the government's statement.

"The associate secreted the guns in a tool box and took them via Dulles International Airport to London, flew to Rotterdam, Holland, and then drove . . . to Bonn . . . where the guns were turned over to a Libyan in front of the Libyan embassy," the government said.

On May 10, 1980, the government

alleged, one of the guns, a Smith & Wesson .357, was used to assassinate Omran El-Mehdawi in Bonn. From June, 1970, through May, 1978, when he turned against Kadafi, Mehdawi served as finance attache and second secretary in Libya's embassy in Bonn.

The allegation that Wilson obtained the handgun used to assassinate Mehdawi is the third accusation that Wilson acted to eliminate Kadafi enemies.

In December, 1981, Eugene A. Tafoya, an Army Special Forces veteran who worked for Wilson in Libya, was convicted of assault for shooting a Libyan student in Fort Collins, Colo., in 1980. The student,

Faisal Zagallai, was an active and vocal opponent of Kadafi.

Tafoya testified that he thought he was working for the CIA at the time he shot Zagallai, which he claimed he did in self-defense.

Wilson also is accused of plotting an unsuccessful attempt in 1976 to kill Umar Abdullah Huhayshi, a former member of the Libyan Revolutionary Council who had turned against Kadafi and defected to Egypt.

Wilson and his alleged co-conspirator, Francis E. Terpil, also a former CIA operative and now a fugitive, sought to give the impression that the killing of Huhayshi had been ordered by the CIA, the government said.